

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Katsumi Sameshima

Examiner: Wai-Sing Louie

Serial No.: 09/451,979

Group Art Unit: 1734

Filed: November 30, 1999

Docket: 362-39

For: FERROELECTRIC MEMORY
AND METHOD FOR
MANUFACTURING SAME

Dated: April 2, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement in the Office Action mailed March 8, 2001, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Claims 1-5 of Group I which are drawn to a semiconductor device.

Applicant respectfully traverses the present restriction requirement. The invention has been restricted into two groups of claims. The Examiner contends that Claims 1-5 comprise one group of claims (Invention I) drawn to a semiconductor device, and further contends that Claims 6-14 comprise another group (Invention II) drawn to a method of manufacturing the device. Basically, the Examiner contends that the process of Claims 6-14 may be used to make other semiconductor devices than that which is claimed, and that the semiconductor device defined by Claims 1-5 may be made by another process than that which is set forth in Claims 6-14.

Priority of this correspondence is being filed with the United States Postal Service as first class, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.

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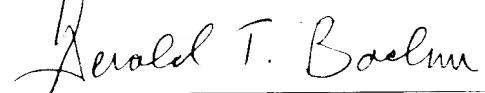
Dated: 4/2/01

Susan L. Toledo

It is respectfully urged that the inventions defined by the claims in each group are so related that they should all be included in a single patent. Both the method and apparatus claims define subject matter which relates to semiconductor fabrication and a semiconductor that is a result of that fabrication. The semiconductor device defined by Claims 1-5 includes, among other elements, a hollow formed in the top surface of an insulation film. The method claims (i.e., Claims 6-14) include, among other steps, the specific step of forming the hollow in the insulation film. Accordingly, the method and apparatus claims are so interrelated and specific to one another that they should be examined together and included in a single patent.

In view of the foregoing remarks, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and consideration on the merits of Claims 1-14 or, if the restriction requirement is maintained, consideration of the provisionally elected apparatus claims (Claims 1-5), is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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